

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
48-hour Strike or Hartal on Wednesday, January 21, and continuing through Friday
morning, January 23 in Dhaka and Khulna Divisions

(Jan 20, 2015)

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has called for a 48-hour hartal in Dhaka and Khulna Divisions beginning Wednesday, January 21, 2015 and continuing through Friday morning, January 23, 2015 protesting the oppression of BNP leaders and calling for the release of arrested leaders and activists.

A hartal is a mass protest and recognized political method for articulating a political demand. As always, remain vigilant, avoid crowds and be aware of your surroundings at all times. The U.S. Embassy is taking a prudent approach to ensure safety of all employees. The travel of U.S. Embassy employees and their family members is restricted to the Diplomatic Enclave (Banani, Baridhara, and Gulshan) from 6:00 p.m. (Tuesday), January 20, 2015 and continuing until 6:00 a.m. (Friday), January 23, 2015. Additionally, during this hartal, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., pedestrian, rickshaw, bicycle, and other exposed means of movement are prohibited for Embassy personnel on roads and sidewalks, including in the Diplomatic Enclave.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Bangladesh. For additional information, refer to our Travelers Checklist.

You can visit the U.S. Embassy Dhaka web page (dhaka.usembassy.gov) for up-to-date information on travel restrictions or call the Embassy directly at (88) (02) 5566-2000. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212 and is open Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (88) (02) 5566-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizens Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh